

## Message Text

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63

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 AID-20 EB-11 OMB-01 IO-12 ACDA-19 NIC-01

TRSE-00 /170 R

66640

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R 280054 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY MANILA

CINCPAC

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

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SUBJECT: APRIL 27 INDOCHINA PRESS SUMMARY

1. NVN EMBASSY PARIS ASSERTS U. S. UNILATERALLY ANNOUNCED HAK-THO MID- MAY MEETING. THACH TELLS REPORTERS DRV HAS NOT YET APPROVED TALKS (REUTER). RADIO REPORTS FRENCH PAPER ALLEGING THO WON' T MEET HAK UNLESS U. S. RESUMES MINE-CLEARING, PUSHES IN CONGRESS ECONOMIC AID TO NVN AND PERSUADES GVN TO END CEASE- FIRE VIOLATIONS. AP' S GOLDSMITH, IN PARIS, CITES " SOURCES CLOSE TO" NVN TAKING SIMILAR LINE (SUN, WP). ADMIN OFFICIALS REPORTED SAYING HAK- THO MEETING FIRMLY ANTICIPATED, IS NOT SIMPLY POSSIBILITY DEPENDENT ON SULLIVAN- THACH PREPARATIONS. SULLIVAN ARRIVES IN PARIS, BEGINS DISCUSSIONS TODAY (REUTER, SUN).
2. ENEMY FORCES POSE MOST SERIOUS THREAT TO PP IN 3- MONTH OFFENSIVE, PUSH TO WITHIN 2 MILES OF CAPITAL. POCHENTONG UNDER ROCKET ATTACK. WAVES OF U. S. PLANES ATTACK ACROSS MEKONG (NYDN, SUN, CHITRIB, PHINQ). CSM' S SOUTHERLAND IN PP, REPORTS ROCKET ATTACK ON AIRFIELD AND INFILTRATION OF VILLAGES ONLY 2 MILES EAST OF CITY ARE SEEN BY MILITARY EXPERTS AS MAINLY PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFORTS AND LACKING ANY GREAT MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE.
3. GREENWAY (WP) AGREES THAT INSURGENT THREAT TO PP HAS BEEN MORE PSYCHOLOGICAL THAN MILITARY; BUT NOW LAST OF FANK DEFENDERS EAST OF CITY HAVE FLED AND ENEMY IS ON MEKONG. RIVER FORMIDABLE BARRIER AND NOT LIKELY INSURGENTS CAN CROSS IN STRENGTH, BUT THEIR ARRIVAL PUTS THEM WITHIN EASY MORTAR RANGE " WITH TELLING PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT." BURDEN OF BREAKING UP INSURGENT TROOP CONCENTRATIONS FALLS MORE AND MORE TO U. S. AIR POWER. BROWNE (NYT) REPORTS CITY STILL HAS " GENERALLY UNCONCERNED" ASPECT. SUGGESTS " OBVIOUS REASON" FOR LACK OF CAMBODIAN OR U. S. AIR ATTACKS ACROSS MEKONG IS " INTIMATE MIXING OF COMMUNIST TROOPS WITH CIVILIANS, WHO WOULD SUFFER TERRIBLE CASUALTIES" IN AIR RAID.
4. SWEDISH FM WICKMAN ACCUSES U. S. OF " INDISCRIMINATE" BOMBING IN CAMBODIA' S " CIVIL WAR" (AP WP, NYDN, NYT); BRAY GIVES " FROSTY NO COMMENT" (AP NYT, WP, SUN). DOD IDENTIFIES FIRST U. S. PILOT KILLED IN CAMBODIA SINCE  
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JAN. 28 CEASE- FIRE, DOWNED APRIL 7. SINCE THEN, F-4 HAS BEEN SHOT DOWN WITH ITS TWO CREWMEN MISSING (UPI WP, NYT). CITING FOA CASE, SYMINGTON PROTESTS TO SECRETARY ABOUT WHAT HE CALLS RESTRICTIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD U. S. NEWSMEN BY EMBASSY PP. SENATOR SAYS RECENT TRIP BY MOOSE AND LOWENSTEIN CONFIRMS THAT SENIOR EMBASSY OFFICIALS PRESSURED FOA EXPULSION, AND THAT U. S. NEWSMEN IN CAMBODIA -- UNABLE TO GAIN ADEQUATE UNDERSTANDING OF EMBASSY' S ACTIVITIES -- MUST RELY PRIMARILY ON NON- U. S. SOURCES (WP). GVN PRE-

PARES FOR FIRST RELEASE OF COMMUNIST CIVILIAN PRISONERS  
UNDER PARIS AGREEMENT, FLYING FIRST GROUP OF 400 TO LOC  
NINH ( REUTER, SUN). GVN SPOKESMAN SAYS SAIGON WILL GO  
AHEAD WITH PLANS FOR SENATE ELECTIONS AUG 26, DESPITE VC  
REJECTION OF SVN PROPOSAL - OR INTERNATIONALLY SUPERVISED  
GENERAL ELECTIONS ( UPI, NYT).

5. GVN ANNOUNCES IT IS PERMITTING SAIGON JOURNALISTS TO  
ATTEND VC PRESS BRIEFINGS, FOLLOWING REQUESTS FROM SAIGON  
PAPERS. SPOKESMAN WARNS, HOWEVER, THAT LOCAL NEWSMEN  
MUST REPORT CONFERENCES OBJECTIVELY, WITHOUT EDITORIAL  
COMMENT AND MUST EXCLUDE WHAT GVN CONSIDERS COMMUNIST  
PROPAGANDA ( REUTER). SCHMIDT ( CSM) REPORTS USAF IS  
SITTING ON 2.3 MILLION GALLONS OF AGENT ORANGE, FORMERLY  
USED IN VN JUNGLE WARFARE, " AND DOESN' T KNOW WHAT  
E E E E E E E

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\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* UNCLASSIFIED

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**To:** BANGKOK  
CANBERRA  
JEC PARIS  
LONDON  
MOSCOW  
PARIS  
PHNOM PENH

SAIGON  
SEOUL  
VIENTIANE

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